

LAWRENCE-DOUGLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: September 8, 2003

TO: Local and Regional Media Outlets

FROM: W. Kay Kent, RN, MS
Administrator/Health Officer

RE: Updated Schedule of News Briefings on Cryptosporidium Outbreak

The schedule of news briefings from the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department regarding the outbreak of cryptosporidiosis has been updated. **Rather than fax an update of the number of cases each working day by 10:00 a.m., we will now release that information each working day by 5:30 p.m.** This change is being made to better meet the needs of our local media.

We request that reporters refrain from calling at other times in order to allow the Health Department investigation team to concentrate on the investigation.

The following plan is being implemented immediately:

- An update on the number of cases will be faxed each working day by 5:30 p.m. The update will consist of:
 - Number of confirmed cases of cryptosporidium
 - Number of confirmed cases in children less than 18 years
 - Number of confirmed cases in adults
- News briefings for the media will be held Tuesdays and Fridays from 3:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the First Floor Meeting Room of the Community Health Facility, 200 Maine Street, Lawrence, Kansas
- A press release associated with each news briefing will be faxed by 10:00 a.m. the day of the briefing.

We greatly appreciate the coverage you have given to our public health prevention messages that inform people about how to protect themselves against infection from Cryptosporidium. We recognize that a strong partnership with the media is vital for disseminating critical information to the public.

Should you wish to have information from the Health Department faxed to a number other than the one used today, contact Eve Weeth at the Health Department. You may call at (785) 843-3060 or fax (785) 843-3161.